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The reports received by the Japanese foreign office state that from January 5, the date of the outbreak, to March 16 there have been 234 cases, with a mortality of 204, and at the same time call attention to the malignancy of the disease, a remark scarcely requisite in view of the reported death rate.

At a meeting of the central board of health, held at Tokyo on the 19th instant, it was decided that the most rigid inspection shall be carried out in the case of all vessels coming from Hongkong, and that in case any infection is found or suspected, strict quarantine shall be enforced for not less than seven days, with disinfection of ship, crew, passengers, and cargo.

No cases of cholera have occurred in this Empire since the date of my last report, March 15.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

#### TURKEY.

*Concerning the general movement of the last pilgrimage in the Hedjaz.*

[Report No. 149.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 26, 1896.

I have the honor to forward to the Department a copy, printed in French, of the general movement of the last pilgrimage, 1894-95, in the Hedjaz, or the Holy Land of the Islam. I think it necessary to accompany it by some details which I consider interesting.

By a telegram under date of the 23d of April, 1895, it was announced that a cholera death had occurred in Mecca, a pilgrim among those who arrived from Singapore on board the English steamship *Stentor*. According to the board's papers of the above-mentioned steamship *Stentor*, no illness on board had occurred during her voyage from Singapore to Jeddah, including the five days' quarantine at Camaran. The epidemic on which we lay stress was rather light, and though, as above-mentioned, on the 23d of April, the largest number of cholera deaths (27) occurred on the 30th of the same month. Cholera broke out among the pilgrims who composed the caravan, which from Mecca goes to Medina. This caravan was composed of 12,000 camels and 25,000 pilgrims, 4,000 of whom fell victims of the scourge. In the village of Rebuk alone, there occurred 500 deaths. Rebuk is a village four days' distant from Mecca.

In the beginning of the journey death immediately followed the attack, but, as is well known, traveling is the best way to get rid of cholera. When the above-mentioned caravan arrived at Medina, as well as when it came back to Mecca, cholera had already disappeared and the pilgrims were quite free of the scourge. There is no doubt that the sanitary improvements performed in the Hedjaz—of however little importance—have contributed to check the spread of the epidemic. Not a single case of cholera has been observed in Yeddah.

The number of pilgrims landed in the Holy Land at the last pilgrimage was 60,000, and 60,000 or 70,000 more have to be added who had reached the holy cities through the desert. If we compare the number of pilgrims who visit the Hedjaz every year we will see that this number becomes, every year, larger. This augmentation is due to the great

facilities of communication. Pilgrims of the interior of India can reach the coast very easily by railroad, and the steamship companies facilitate very much their transportation. But, if there exist great facilities by which Indian, or Javanese, or Chinese pilgrims can reach the Holy Land, this security and well-being, as well as the comfort, are far from existing in the Hedjaz. I fear, though, that when security and comfort exist in the latter place the number of pilgrims will decrease. When Christian pilgrims were going in large numbers to Palestine, security and comfort were unknown in the latter place. Now that a Christian pilgrim can be sure that nobody will disturb him and that he can have comfort, Christian pilgrimage is not worth mentioning.

From 1870 to 1874 there was an average of 38,378 pilgrims per year; from 1875 to 1879 there were 38,029; from 1880 to 1884 the number of pilgrims was 41,775; from 1885 to 1889 their number was 47,019, and from 1890 to 1894 it was 57,819. We do not know if the number of pilgrims reaching the Holy Land through the desert is also increasing.

In the places from which the largest number of pilgrims came cholera is endemic, and the conditions of health, education, and lack of cleanliness of these men contribute to the spread of the disease. Indians, for instance, are thin and lean, and when they walk they resemble rather walking shadows. They are very far from being clean, they are very miserably dressed, and their clothes exceedingly dirty. Rarely will you meet among them a man well built. I may say that without the X rays you can see very easily the bones of their skeletons. They are very miserably fed, and the great majority of them are beggars. They never pay their own teskeré, or sanitary pass, the price of which is 10 piasters (nearly 10 cents). The great majority of pilgrims are Indians, and it is among them that cholera breaks out very often.

The Malays, Afghans, Persians, and those coming from Central Asia are certainly stronger than the Indians; their constitutions are better, but their cleanliness does not differ considerably. The percentage of poor is nearly the same. About 50 per cent of them can not pay their teskeré. During their travel they are crowded on board the ships, the pilgrim ships' agents embarking always a larger number than that allowed by the law. The English steamship *Devonhurst*, for instance, had 66 pilgrims more than the number registered at the port of her departure. The English steamship *Saladin* had 71 pilgrims more. There were 1,082 pilgrims on board the steamship *Jubeda*, instead of 1,059, as registered. There were 647, instead of 630, on board the steamship *Mobile*; 784, instead of 749, on board the steamship *Husseim*; 261, instead of 257, on board the *Eleaface*, and 727, instead of 711, on board the steamship *Naséri*.

Besides being crowded on board the steamship, there is something to say about the price that the pilgrims have to pay for their voyage. There is a difference between the price which they pay coming to the Hedjaz and that going back home. They pay, for instance, from Batavia to Jeddah 18 thalers, but from Jeddah to Batavia 26 thalers. There are many poor pilgrims who can not pay their passage at the end of the pilgrimage. They ought to go back gratuitously. There is a way to exploit these poor victims of their faith. There is the firm Seyed Omar Elsagoff, the agent of which pays the passage of the above-mentioned poor pilgrims, and the latter have to return the amount with the interest by laboring on the arable lands of the above-mentioned firm in the states of the Sultan of Johore (south of Mallacca). The poor pilgrims have to toil for a long time until they get the necessary money to pay their debt. It is stated that English and Dutch authorities try to interfere

in the bargains among steamship agencies and pilgrims in order to prevent the above-mentioned kind of slavery.

Let me give some details of the way that the pilgrims are treated at the port of Jeddah. The poor pilgrim on his arrival at Jeddah is at the mercy of the sambookjis and mutavifs. The sambookji is the owner of the sambook (boat) by which he has to land the pilgrims, and the mutavif is the guide of the latter through the Holy Land. Before the mooring of the steamship carrying the pilgrims the sambookji is already on board the steamer, and he gets hold of the pilgrim's baggage in order to get hold of the pilgrim himself. He throws the pilgrim's baggage overboard into the sambook, and it is not rare to see this baggage floating on the sea.

It is not possible to give a description of the terrible looks of the sambookjis when they deal with the pilgrims. The noise and bluster is above all description. The pilgrim is a victim of the terrible-looking man, who acts without conscience or control of law. He stops the sambook midway between the steamer and the shore, in order to extort money by means of screams, threats, and very often blows. The sambook is so much overcrowded that very often at low tide she strands, and the poor pilgrims are obliged to stay for hours and hours under the burning sun or in the rain. Fancy the condition of these wretched men, the victims of their faith and at that moment the victims of these pirates whom they call sambookji. We must not forget that very often the sea is rough and the sambook is liable to capsize.

Once the pilgrims are landed, there is the mutavif, who clings to them and is the intermediate agent between the pilgrims and the persons who deal with them. If the description they make of the mutavif is true he is worse than the sambookji. He tries at every step to rob his victim and after his death he inherits his possessions. The sanitary authorities try to control them, and it must be stated that last year the control and survey of the authorities having been more stringent, the unlawful trade has been somewhat abated; but the mutavifs, in order to be revenged, have excited the Bedouins against the sanitary authorities and against the non-Moslem. The latter are the sanitary physicians, and the foreign consuls. As a consequence of the above-mentioned incitement of the Bedouins the criminal attempt against the consuls of Russia and France resulted. They were shot and wounded on the 30th of May, 1895. Besides that, the above-mentioned Bedouins have destroyed the disinfecting furnace, which had just been built. The most astonishing thing is that the local authorities of Mecca, the muhtesib, for instance (governor of the town), has assisted and incited the above-mentioned troubles and misdeeds. I do not think it necessary to report that, though the central Government in Constantinople has ordered the spending of some money for sanitary improvement of Mecca, the local authorities of Mecca not only have not spent it, but they have behaved as rebels. I must state, however, that the Imperial Government has dismissed the above-mentioned muhtessib and another governor has been appointed in his place.

It is known that two years ago the number of cholera deaths in the Hedjaz during the pilgrimage was about half of the total number of pilgrims who entered the Hedjaz by sea. The total number was 94,963 pilgrims, and the number of cholera deaths was 40,991. (See my report, No. 87, of the 31st of December, 1893.) At the last pilgrimage the number of cholera deaths was 5,000. The epidemic of smallpox, on the contrary, has caused a very large number of deaths, as well as the epidemic of dysentery. It is stated that more than 15,000 deaths have

been attributed to smallpox. It is not possible to give exactly the number of deaths, as it is impossible to know exactly the number of pilgrims. We know the number of pilgrims who arrive by sea, because each of them has to pay a teskeré, or fee; but who can state their number when they arrive through the desert?

I have, in my previous reports on the pilgrimage, given a description of the sanitary condition of Jeddah, as well as that of the holy cities.

The sanitary news from Camaran, as well as from the Hedjaz, is good. The pilgrims are arriving in good health, the number already arrived, up to the 15th instant, being 27,991.

Cholera in Egypt is abating. Since the 1st of last February no cholera case has been registered in the interior of Egypt. From the 12th instant up to the 20th of the same month no case has been registered in Alexandria. On the 21st instant 1 cholera death was registered. Since the latter date public health is good. The pilgrims who go to the Hedjaz from Suez are submitted to ten days' quarantine. At the sitting of the international sanitary commission of the 24th instant it was decided to submit these pilgrims to only five days' quarantine.

From the other provinces of the Turkish Empire sanitary news is good. In Constantinople the epidemic of influenza is abating. During the month of February last 1,428 deaths were registered, from which 8 died from smallpox.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO.

#### STATISTICAL REPORTS.

ARGENTINA—*Buenos Ayres*.—Month of January, 1896. Estimated population, 680,400. Total deaths, 1,296, including smallpox, 33; enteric fever, 26; scarlet fever, 47; diphtheria, 30; measles, 3, and whooping cough, 19.

BERMUDA.—Week ended April 3, 1896. Estimated population, 15,013. No deaths.

CUBA—*Habana*.—Under date of April 11, 1896, the United States sanitary inspector reports as follows:

There were 146 deaths in this city during the week ended April 9, 1896. Two of those deaths were caused by yellow fever, 2 by enteric fever, 6 by pernicious fever, 1 by diphtheria, 2 by dysentery, 13 by enteritis, 5 by smallpox, 1 by glanders, 5 by pneumonia, and 5 by the grippe. The 2 deaths by yellow fever during the week occurred in the military hospital.

FRANCE—*Nice*.—Month of February, 1896. Estimated population, 78,482. Total deaths, 199, including phthisis pulmonalis, 19, and enteric fever, 1.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended March 28 correspond to an annual rate of 18.8 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,860,971. The lowest rate was recorded in Brighton, viz, 11.7, and the highest in Manchester, viz, 26.1 a thousand.